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CENTRAL FAX CENTERREMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

JUN 26 2006

Claims 6, 8, 9 and 11-13 are pending in the present application, of which claim 6 is the sole independent claim. Claim 6 has been amended. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 4, lines 26-27 and page 6, lines 1-4. New claims 11-13 have been added. Support for the new claims is found at page 6, lines 30-32 and page 11, line 23.

The specification was objected to for improper use of trademarks. The cited paragraph has been replaced with a corrected paragraph.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a) over Lehmann *et al.* (U.S. 4,644,031, hereinafter "Lehmann") and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zagnoli *et al.* (U.S. 3,030,273, hereinafter "Zagnoli") in view of Duccini *et al.* (EP 812,905, hereinafter "Duccini"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Lehmann teaches a composition comprising a mixture of a water-soluble polymer and a water-insoluble polymer. Therefore, Lehmann cannot anticipate the present invention, which uses only a water-soluble polymer. Moreover, there is no motivation to modify Lehmann's teachings by omitting the water-insoluble polymer, and so Lehmann cannot render the present invention obvious. Zagnoli likewise does not teach a coating composition which is limited to a water-soluble polymer, and Duccini does not teach a tablet coating at all, and in fact stresses that the binders taught therein are better used throughout the tablet rather than as a coating (page 2, lines 33-36 and 42-43).

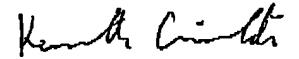
Moreover, none of the references suggests that neutralization of acid groups on the polymer is best performed with a secondary amine, as recited in the current claims. Applicants have found that coatings produced in this way are less brittle (trials 7-9 in Ex. 1 and 7 in Ex. 4; compared to NaOH in trial 1). Nothing in the references suggests that this result could be obtained. Addition of a trialkyl citrate or a polyalkylene glycol adduct as a plasticizer, as recited in claims 11-13, also improves dissolution of the film (Ex. 4, trials 16-17).

The provisional double patenting rejection of claims 1-3 is moot in view of cancellation of those claims.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks have placed the application in condition for allowance without raising new issues or requiring any further consideration, and respectfully request that this Amendment be entered and all claims be passed to allowance at this time. In any event, Applicants believe that this Amendment places the claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and should be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. However, if the Examiner has any further objections to the application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants'

undersigned attorney by telephone at (847) 649-3891 to discuss the remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 26, 2006